ADJOURNMENT MOTION.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Sir, I move the adjournment of the House to discuss a matter of urgent public importance *viz.*, the serious situation arising out of the sanction given by the Governor and Secretary of State for Colombo to the new protective tariff affecting eggs, vegetables, animal and vegetable ghee, ginger, fish-oil, edible oil (except cod liver oil) and betel leaves.

Sir, the present question with regard to the protective.....

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): Sir, I rise to a point of order. We have not received a copy of the motion.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Sir, are we not entitled to a copy of the motion ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: It was read out by the President. I am prepared to read it again. The adjournment of the business of the Assembly is sought to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, *viz.*, the serious situation arising out of the sanction given by the Governor and Secretary of State for Colombo to the new protective tariff affecting eggs, vegetables, animal and vegetable ghee, ginger, fish oil, edible oil (except cod liver oil) and betel leaves.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Is it the Secretary of State for India or the Secretary of State for Colombo?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): I adopted the words as it was published by the Associated Press of India. But that is not the most important point.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): May I know whether it is the Secretary of State of Ceylon Government or the Secretary of State for Colonies ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: It must be the Secretary of State for Colonies because Ceylon is a Crown Colony.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): Sir, I understood the member to say Secretary of State. Of course, I do not cast any reflection on the member. He was not quite audible.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): I myself felt some doubt about it. I merely adopted the wording of the Associated Press of India. I think it must be the Secretary of State for Colonies.

Anyhow the matter that I want to bring to the notice of the House is the serious situation arising out of the prohibitive tariff duties imposed on some of the articles mentioned in my motion by the Ceylon Government, the effect of which has begun to be felt by the exporters of these articles. It is a matter which affects the whole of India and Travancore particularly. The article in which there is considerable export from Travancore, in my opinion, is eggs. But I searched to find out the approximate quantity of eggs exported from Travancore, in the Statistical Volume of 1108 M. E. in the list of non-dutiable articles, I find that there is absolutely no mention of such an

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article as eggs being exported from Travancore. I searched in the Statistical Volumes for the years 1107, 1106 and 1105 but I could not find, in the list of non-dutiable articles, eggs. But I do not think that, because there is no mention of it in the Statistical Volume the contention will be put forward that no eggs are exported from Travancore. I do not think that such a contention will be put forward. It was once answered that Government are not aware of the export of gold from Travancore. But, as a matter of fact, all of us know that vast quantitites of gold are being exported from Travancore. I took some pains to collect statistics of the quantity of eggs exported from Quilon and I shall furnish to the House the approximate figures regarding it. Within five months in 1109, we have sent nearly 23,48,000 eggs to Ceylon at a rate of Rs. 20 per thousand.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): May I know whether it is from the whole of Travancore ?

MR. K. KUNJUKISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): No, from Quilon and Kottarakara alone.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): May I know the amount in rupees ?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): About Rs. 1,12,320. On further enquiry from the merchants, I find that before the year 1932, not only eggs but poultry of different kinds were exported from Travancore to the extent of about 4 lakhs of rupees.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): May I know where these figures are from ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I do not think Mr. Thanu Pillai is entitled to ask that question, because, I presume, Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai takes the responsibility for the figures.

MR A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): But can we not know the source from which he obtained those figures ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai has been explaining for some minutes that the figures are not found in any Government record but that he collected the figures carefully and that he was placing that in the form of a statement.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): Without knowing the source from which the member obtained the information ,can we place reliance upon it ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The credibility on these figures is a matter for every individual member of this House to take and Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai has assumed the responsibility for saying that the figures are correct so far as he is aware. The matter ends there.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) Sir, I had been to some of the chief exporters and they have given me the figures as can be gathered from their accounts. The total of the figures, I presume, must be much higher than this. Even these figures are sufficient to prove the case that I want to present for the acceptance of the House.

The first point that I wish to make out is that the department that is responsible for keeping correct statistics of these things is not

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[Mr. K. Kunjukrishna Pillai.

keeping it. Unless we have got correct statistical information on these things, we cannot make ourselves felt. This House has been crying hoarse that the Statistical Department and the Customs Department are thoroughly inefficient in this matter and that a separation of these Departments is absolutely necessary for the efficient conduct of the Customs branch of the Excise Department and also for looking after the commerce of the country. Sir, on all those occasions, the officer in charge of that Department has been saying that he is able to do all the work and that he has got sufficient time. Oh, yes, he will have sufficient time even if some more departments are added on to his responsibility and provided that this sort of administration is allowed to go on.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You are going far from the point.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): I wanted to point out the importance of the figures and as an instance I am saying this. I wish to draw the attention of the Government how serious and vital it is to have correct statistics in regard to customs and imports. We do not know how many articles are omitted. We cannot possibly know our real trade balance. I want to bring to the serious attention of this House the unsatisfactory condition and nature of the work and the consequent result.

Sir, we have to realise the enormous disadvantage to the exporters of these articles on account of these prohibitive duties. Sir, I understand that according to the recent protective tariff duty of Ceylon, Rs. 3 has to be paid for 100 eggs. Already, Sir, there was only a duty of Rs.15 for Rs. 100 worth of eggs. But now the duty works up to Rs. 115 on Rs. 100 worth of eggs. The present one is a prohibitive duty, and, I think, at this rate, no egg will be exported from Travancore. Owing to the rural reconstruction work done at Marthandom, poultry-farming has become very popular and it is being conducted on scientific lines. There is every possibility of this industry becoming one of the most widespread and common cottage industries in the whole of Travancore. From Marthandam alone I understand that about 86,000 eggs of first quality are being shipped every year. The total quantity of eggs exported from Travancore, if my figures are correct, is very considerable. I have got definite information from the wholesale exporters of eggs that they were sending consignments of eggs to Ceylon once in three days. Now that has been stopped. They have received telegraphic communication from the Ceylon merchants prohibiting further shipments till arrangements are made in consequence of these duties. The agents of these people, in Ceylon, who have taken contracts for the supply of eggs to hospitals, to hotels and to other institutions in Ceylon, find themselves in very difficult circumstances. Sir, this is a matter which affects not only Travancore but British India also on account of the other articles in the list. But in regard to eggs, we are the most important exporters. With regard to the other articles, the whole of India will be suffering on account of this duty. It is a blow directed against the Indian people on the whole.

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MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): May I know whether there is not agitation on the part of the Ceylon against the existing tariff duties?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): I am glad that the member has put this question. There is a big clamour there against the tariff duty: that is what I have read from the papers. When this Bill was discussed in the Council, there were very vehement protests against it. Members pointed out to the Financial Secretary, or rather to the Finance Member there, that it will be unwise to put up this tariff wall against these articles because it will affect countries which are the primary importers of Jaffna tobacco, and will be against the spirit of the Ottawa agreement. All these points have been vehemently brought to their notice.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): How can we make our decision felt upon Ceylon?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): I will come to that.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): May I take it that these duties were introduced by an ordinance?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): No, Sir, It was not like that. A Bill was passed in the Legislature in the usual course by a majority of 23.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The clamour you referred to was perhaps for the repeal of that Bill?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): No, Sir. I was referring to the clamour among consumers outside the Legislature, and their representatives in the legislature at the time the Bill was being pushed through. I would now come to the question, raised by Mr. E. V. Krishna Pillai, how we will make ourselves felt.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I want to tell you that you have already taken 16 minutes. I shall however allow you some more time.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): This is a matter in which, more than we, the British Government will be affected. This is an occasion in which we can point out to the Government of India that Ceylon is not acting in the spirit in which the Ottawa agreement was entered into, and that therefore there was absolutely no reason why the Government of India should give any preference to Ceylon as against us. We will point out that, because of the reduction of the import duty on copra, we have been reduced to penury.

Sir, the tax on the total textile fabrics produced in India amounts to Rs. 15 crores. We consume more than the proportion warranted by our population. We consume more because we are more advanced. Out of this 15 crores of rupees 9, crores are utilized for subsidising the industry and given as bounties, and out of that we do not get a cash. We have to point out these facts to the Government of India. We have got a very good case. We have got a very great case. We must fight hard.

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[Mr. K. Kunjukrishna Pillai.]

The Travancore Government can take action at once, and the apprehensions forecasted by the members in the Ceylon Council will be justified if we will put up the duty on Jaffna tobacco to Rs. 900. Government must show how we feel on this matter. They must raise the duty on tobacco, and begin in right earnest the cultivation of tobacco, with a view to make Travancore, self-sufficient. The Travancore Government on a former occasion raised the duty on Jaffna tobacco to Rs. 900, and then the Ceylon Government had to come and beg of us to reduce the duty. Through the intervention of the British Government and recognising the spirit that should actuate the units of the Empire, in their dealings with each other, we lowered the duty and this is how we are treated by Ceylon!

We must express our resentment and the best way of doing it is to raise the duty on Jaffna tobacco to Rs. 900 without any further delay. That is within our power and that is the first thing that we can do.

Then we can go to the Government of India and represent matters. We do contribute substantially to the coffers of the British Government by way of the indirect and uncovenanted contributions on articles produced in British India and consumed by us, or on articles imported in British India, as it were paying tourist charges, and consumed by us. We do not get any share of it. It is in the interests of British India itself that we must be protected. Unless some strong and effective action is taken, we will be strangled economically. We must act promptly. Time is the essence of the remedy.

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kottarakara*): I support the motion. My constituency is hit very hard by the protective tariff raised by Ceylon Government against the importation of eggs. I cannot accept the figures, given by Mr. Kottoor Kunjukrishna Pillai in regard to the quantity of eggs exported and the amount of money received. My information is that Kottarakara alone exports more than Rs. 2 lakhs worth of eggs every year. Very many persons are engaged in this trade and they are sending eggs to the merchants of Ceylon on credit. This action of the Ceylon Government has paralysed their trade and they find it difficult to realise the amount invested with the Ceylon merchants. The selfish policy of economic nationalisation by the Ceylon Government is very injurious to our country. Either we must follow a policy of retaliation or we must also adopt the homeopathic method of economic nationalism. It is better to adopt the policy of retaliation by boycotting Jaffna tobacco from our country. There is yet another method of teaching these selfish people, by cultivating tobacco in our country. Ceylon Government, on account of the adoption of the policy of raising protective duty on our articles has thrown a challenge upon the people.

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Is it a protective duty or a fiscal duty ?

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kottarakara*) : Sir, it is a protective duty.

It is better that the Ceylon Government is informed that we are going to adopt a policy of retaliation. Then I think the Ceylon Government will change the pernicious policy of self-aggrandisement. Another thing our Government ought to do is to request the Government of India to see that preference should not be given to the Ceylon Government in the matter of cocoanut trade I request that these things may be taken in hand at once and effective measures may be adopted in this matter. I support the motion.

MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (*Nominated*) : I rise to support the motion before the House. I know that in regard to the articles of export mentioned here, egg is the most important one. And there are a good many Muslim merchants in Quilon mainly trade in this commodity. It is pointed out by the mover that there is ample scope for the development and improvement of poultry industry in Travancore and before long Travancore will be in a position to produce eggs in as much quantity as would be required by the State and also for export. We are importing Jaffna tobacco for our consumption and it is seen that it is on the increase. It is quite clear that such being the case it is a wonder to see how Ceylon Government has imposed high tariff walls for our export articles. It is only in the fitness of things that we must take measures to make our voice heard by the Ceylon Government and to redress the grievances of the merchants who are engaged in the export of these commodities from Travancore. The sooner a way is found for this the better would be the result. With these few words, I support the motion.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : Sir, the subject to which this motion relates is one in respect of which I am sorry to say I am not sufficiently well informed. I have to depend more or less on the facts supplied to the House by the mover, Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai, and the other speakers. But I know that the poultry breeding industry is developing in some parts of the State and large quantities of eggs are being exported from Travancore. I thought, Sir, that the Excise Commissioner would take an early opportunity to speak on this motion. My idea was to make my observations after he had spoken, because I hoped that I would be in possession of the relevant facts in case he spoke before me. But the Chair was pleased to ask me whether I would speak and I wish to make a few observations.

I wish to say a word in this connection as to the manner in which our trade interests are taken care of by the Government. Where are we to look for official and authoritative statistics relating to our trade ? Figures are not available and statistics are not supplied to us for our

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information. In regard to the motion before the House, we do not know with sufficient definiteness the extent of our export trade in eggs and the extent to which the present decision of the Ceylon Government will affect us. It would have been possible for an ordinary man to find out the above facts if proper statistics were made available by the Government. There is nothing of the kind here. I must also join my friends in emphasising the necessity for making better arrangements for taking care of our trade interests. Now the Customs Department is having a commercial section, if I may call it so, not at all well staffed and well equipped. I am afraid there is not a single officer in the State service who is well equipped in respect of this branch of the administration, I mean, who is well up in trade matters. There must be some one who is at least conversant with the necessary details relating to trade. Our statistics are incomplete and most unsatisfactory. My friend Mr. K. C. Karunakaran gave notice of a motion to be brought in this House.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : It does not come under this motion.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : Anyhow I am glad that he has given notice of a motion for the appointment of an officer who is to be designated as Vigilance Officer, to be on the watch to safeguard our trade interests. I feel it is essential. The non-official member, who brought to the notice of Government our helplessness in this matter, has pleaded for effective steps being taken by our State to ensure our trade interests in countries outside, and I fully agree with him. I notice that Government contemplate sending a man to Calcutta for statistical training at a cost of Rs. 260 for two months.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Mr. Thanu Pillai, the discussion should be confined wholly and solely to the result of the action taken by the Ceylon Government so far as the trade interests of Travancore are concerned.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : What I was referring to was that no useful purpose would be served by sending a man who has no experience in this line to study the compilation of statistics for two months at a cost of Rs. 260. The officer to be deputed for this purpose should be one with sufficient experience and knowledge of affairs. It is not a suitable job for a clerk in the Secretariat. I hope Government will take notice of this fact and make proper arrangements to safeguard our trade interests.

Now, Sir, coming to the topic under discussion, Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai said that eggs are being sent out from Quilon and Kottarakara. I know South Travancore also sends large quantities of eggs outside. We want the industries of our country to be developed. Agriculture is proving to be an unprofitable concern. But we should develop it. But another means of securing our country's economic prosperity is the development of minor industries. Poultry breeding has ample scope in our State.

Sir, it is the duty of the Government of India to safeguard our commercial interests. As at present circumstanced, we can achieve

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nothing substantial in our relations with the outside world except through the Government of India. Our voice may be weak and powerless. It seems it is not strong enough to be heard at Delhi, the headquarters of the Government of India. As our Dewan-President on one occasion————

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: This House is concerned with the President or the Dewan and not with the Dewan-President.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Yes, Sir. I think it was in the course of his reply to the address presented to him by the Chamber of Commerce, Alleppey, that the Dewan said that our voice is not being sufficiently heard in Delhi. How can we make our voice heard? We can only make requests. And in regard to our interests, we must stand or fall with the British Indian Government. But we are only a powerless and weak partner; and if our prayers are unheeded, we do not know where we would be. Our cocoanut industry—the industry of the people—is going down and our trade relations with other countries are controlled by the British Indian Government. Can we take retaliatory measures against Ceylon? Even there we want the support of the British Indian Government. I ask how long are we going to pray to them for help and go without it.

While the Bill relating to the imposition of the duty on matches was being discussed, we were told by the Government members that we must face facts and act according to the wishes of the Government of India. I can understand the situation. But the Government of India in their turn should also be requested and persuaded not to fail in their duty to their weak partner. I request Government to send up those proceedings to the Government of India so that they may understand the position in which our foreign trade is placed; and let us hope that they will do everything necessary to safeguard our interest and thereby see that Travancore becomes quite worthy of being a valuable and useful partner in the great commonwealth of India.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): സർ, ഇതു ഗൗരവമേറിയ ഒരു സംഗതിയെസംബന്ധിച്ചു ഈ സഭയിൽ സങ്കല്പമാത്രമായ കണക്കുകളെ ആസ്പദമാക്കിമാത്രം വാദപ്രതിവാദംചെയ്യാൻ ഇട വന്നതു് ഏറ്റവും ഖേദകരമായിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതിനിടയായതു് എ ക്സാമിക്ക് ഡെവലപ്പുമെൻറുബോർഡും ആലപ്പുഴ ചെയിംബർഓഫ് കാമേഴ്സും എക്കണാമിക്ക ഡിപ്രഷൻഎൻകയറികമ്മിറ്റിയും ബാ ങ്കിംഗ് എൻകയറികമ്മിറ്റിയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ അനുസ രിച്ചു ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും പ്രവർത്തിക്കാത്തതുകൊണ്ടാണു്. ഇതു ഗൗര വാവഹവും അതിപ്രധാനവും ആയ സംഗതികളേക്കുറിച്ചു വേണ്ട അവ കാശം താമസിക്കുന്നതിനും ആ രേഖകൾ പെട്ടെന്നുതന്നെ ലഭിക്കുന്നതി

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ന്നം തക്കതായ ഏർപ്പാട് കന്നം ഇതേവരെ ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ല. ഇതിന് ഒരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറൽ ഹെഡിനേയും കൂറപ്പെടുത്തേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ല. ഇന്ന് അതിനു ചുമതലപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻ തന്റെ മുൻഗാമി അനുവർത്തിച്ചുവന്ന പന്ഥാവിൽക്കൂടിതന്നെ ആ കൃത്യങ്ങൾ നിർവഹിച്ചു പോരുന്നു എന്നേയുള്ളൂ. എക്സയിസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുമേധാവിക്കു പലവിധത്തിലുള്ള ജോലികൾ ചെയ്യാനുള്ളതുകൊണ്ട് കസ്റ്റംസിനേയും ബന്ധിച്ചും കച്ചവടത്തേയുംബന്ധിച്ചും ഉള്ള ജോലി അതർഹിക്കുന്നവിധത്തിലുള്ള ശ്രദ്ധയോടും നിഷ്കർഷയോടുംകൂടി അർഹിക്കുന്ന പ്രാധാന്യം കല്പിച്ച് പ്രവർത്തിക്കാൻ അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു സൌകര്യം കിട്ടുന്നില്ല. ഇതിന്റെ പരിഹാരത്തിനു—അതായതു കസ്റ്റംസിനേയും കച്ചവടത്തിനേയും സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള സ്ഥിതിഗതികൾ അതാതവസരത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനേയും ജനങ്ങളേയും ധരിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനും യഥാവസരം അവശ്യം വേണ്ടതായ സംഗതികൾ പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നതിനും—ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ പാണ്ഡിത്യവും സാമർത്ഥ്യവുമുള്ള ഒരു പ്രത്യേക ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനെ ഗവണ്മെൻറു നിയമിക്കേണ്ട കാലം അതിക്രമിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇങ്ങനെ ഒരാളെ നിയമിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടുമാത്രം പൊതുജനങ്ങൾ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്ന ഫലം ഉണ്ടാകുകയില്ല. അതിലേക്കു നിയുക്തനാകുന്ന ആളിനെ വിദേശങ്ങളിൽ അയച്ച് ഈ വിഷയത്തിലുള്ള അഭ്യസനം നടത്തിച്ചുവരുത്തുകയും ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണ്. ഇത്ര ഗൌരവമേറിയ ഒരു സംഗതിയേപ്പറ്റി വിശദമായി അറിയുന്നതിനു ഗവണ്മെൻറു സ്വയമായിതന്നെ പ്രവർത്തിച്ചിട്ടില്ല എന്ന കാണുന്നതുകൊണ്ടാണു അതിനേപ്പറ്റി പ്രത്യേകം പ്രസ്താവിക്കുന്നതു്. ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു ഇങ്ങനെ പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നതിനു സാദ്ധ്യമാകാതെവന്നതു ഉത്തരവാദിത്വത്തോടും വേണ്ട ശ്രദ്ധയോടുംകൂടി ഈ കൃത്യം നിർവഹിക്കുന്നതിനു പ്രത്യേകമായ ഒരു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻ ഇല്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടാണ്. ഈ വിഷയങ്ങൾ പ്രത്യേകം പഠിക്കുന്നതിനു ആസക്തിയും ആരോഗ്യവും നല്ല മനഃസ്ഥിതിയുമുള്ള ആളെവേണം നിയമിക്കാൻ എന്നുള്ളതു പ്രത്യേകം ഓർത്തിരിക്കേണ്ടതു അത്യന്താപേക്ഷിതമായിട്ടുള്ളതാകുന്നു.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I am not going to permit more of this.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): സഭയുടെ ആലോചനക്കു വിഷയീഭവിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ഈ സംഗതി തിരുവിതാംകൂർ രാജ്യത്തെസംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം സാമ്പത്തികമായി വളരെ പ്രാധാന്യം അർഹിക്കുന്ന ഒന്നാണ്. അതുകൊണ്ടു ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ വേണ്ടതു ഉടനടി ചെയ്യുമെന്നു ഞാൻ പ്രത്യാശിക്കുന്നു. ഇതിലേക്കു

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നിയുക്തനാകുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്റെ പാണ്ഡിത്യവും സാമർത്ഥ്യവും സ
വ്വോപരി പരമാർത്ഥതയും അനുസരിച്ചായിരിക്കും കച്ചവടഡിപ്പാർട്ടമെ
ന്റിന്റെയും കസ്റ്റംസ്‌വകുപ്പിന്റെയും ഉൽക്കർഷം അനുഭവയോ
ഗ്യമാകുന്നത്. ഭാവിയിൽ നമ്മുടെരാജ്യത്തിന്റെ സാമ്പത്തിക
മായ സായുജ്യം ഈ വിധത്തിലുള്ള ഒരു പ്രത്യേക ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്റെ
നിയമനത്തിലും അത്തരം പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളിലുമാണ നിശ്ചയമായും
സ്ഥിതിചെയ്യുന്നത്.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Sir, I strongly support the motion brought forward by Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai. The poultry farming industry, which is spreading steadily in South Travancore and other parts of the country, has come to stay, and within the next few years it will be one of the most important subsidiary industries of Travancore. That attempts are now being made by the Ceylon Government to strangle that industry by an import tariff recently introduced there, is a matter for the gravest concern of the people of this State and the Government. Sir, we have a very strong case for communication to the Government of India in this matter. It is open to us to take retaliatory measures in respect of Jaffna tobacco. One thing I wish to remind the House in this connection and that is that the duty of Jaffna tobacco was raised some years ago from Rs. 90 per candy to Rs. 900 per candy. The tobacco chewers themselves then complained and prayed for the duty being brought back to Rs. 90. But their clamour was not heard anywhere. The Jaffna merchants in their turn complained to the Ceylon authorities and the Ceylon authorities corresponded with the Government of India. The Government of India then came forward with their remedy and arrived at some understanding with the Government of Travancore; and under that arrangement we now import a certain quantity of tobacco at the old tariff rate, *viz.*, 5,735 candies. If we now make a representation to the Government of India in this matter and if the tobacco-chewing people of Travancore do not again complain as they did formerly, the problem can be satisfactorily solved.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): ജാപ്പാണംപുകയിലക്കു തീ
രുവക്കൂട്ടിയാൽ ആ പുകയില ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്ന തിരുവിതാംകൂർകാക്ക്
അതു കൂടുതൽ ഉപദ്രവത്തെ വരുത്തുകയില്ലയോ?

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): അതു വ
കവയ്ക്കാനില്ല. ദേശാഭിമാനമുള്ള ആളുകൾ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ ഗുണത്തി
നുവേണ്ടി ജാപ്പാണംപുകയില ഉപയോഗിക്കുകയില്ല എന്ന നിശ്ചയി
ക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. അവർ വേറെ പുകയില ഉപയോഗിച്ചുകൊള്ളും. ഇ

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[Mr. Changanachery N. Paramesvaran Pillai].

ത് നമ്മുടെ കാര്യമാണെന്ന വിചാരിച്ച് നാം പ്രവർത്തിക്കണം. അങ്ങനെയാണെങ്കിൽമാത്രമേ നമുക്ക് ഗുണം കിട്ടുകയുള്ളൂ. നമ്മുടെ ആളുകൾതന്നെയാണ് നമുക്ക് വിരോധമായി നമ്മുടെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിക്ക് വിപരീതമായി പ്രവർത്തിച്ചുവരുന്നത്.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade II*): ഗാലി പുകയില കിട്ടുന്നതിന് സാദ്ധ്യം പ്രയാസമുണ്ടെന്നുകണ്ടാൽ വടക്കൻപുകയിലകൊണ്ട് ജനങ്ങൾ തൃപ്തിപ്പെടുകയില്ലാ എന്ന മെമ്പർ വിചാരിക്കുന്നുവോ?

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): നമ്മുടെ കാര്യം ശരിപ്പെട്ടുവരുന്നതുവരെയെങ്കിലും ജനങ്ങൾ അങ്ങിനെ തൃപ്തിപ്പെടണമെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ പറയുന്നത്.

The Government of Travancore will have to take prompt steps in this matter with a view to addressing the Government of India.

In the matter of export of cocoanuts and copra, we have sufferedi and we have only the British Indian market now for these products. The Ceylon Government is encroaching upon our rights in several directions.

As regards statistics, I may say that the statistical information that we have now got is absolutely incorrect and it is on that account that we have mainly suffered on account of the allotment of rubber quota in the recent past. I may also mention that one of our officers was sent to Calcutta some years ago for statistical training; but when he came back, no opportunity was afforded to him for doing the work for which he was sent out.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): In which Department is he rotting?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The subject being not quite relevant, the question is necessarily irrelevant. I disallow it.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): I only submit that, whoever the officer may be who may be now deputed for training, he should be afforded sufficient opportunity for the State deriving profit by his training.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur* cum *Pattanapuram*): Sir, I have very great pleasure in supporting the motion before the House. I must along with my other friends deplore the absence of reliable statistics on such vital points in the Government publications. I do not think that the appointment of a Statistical Officer in the Secretariat will remove the difficulties that we are now experiencing. Because the officer so appointed can merely compile the figures supplied to him by the officers, whereas for the primary figures

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he has to depend upon the customs excise, and other officers, whose duty it is to register the quantity and price of articles imported and exported whether dutiable or not. Unless you can put proper pressure upon these people, you can never get correct figures. I do not wish to say anything more in regard to that matter. Now, Sir, in the absence of reliable statistics we are very much handicapped in the discussion of this subject. Various and different figures have been given by different members in regard to the quantity and value of the eggs and other goods that we export from Travancore to British India and other parts. But, Sir, so far as eggs are concerned, we know one thing and that is that it is the most widely spread of all cottage industries in the State. If the price of this article suffers, the suffer will not be the capitalist or the rich landholder, as in the case of most other industries, but the poor cottager. There is no cottage or poor man's house in Travancore where a few poultry are not reared. With regard to duck farming, I do not think there is any other country, as far as I know, which is more suited as certain parts of Travancore for this industry. And those who have travelled in my part of the country must have seen hundreds and hundreds of ducks swimming in the water-logged areas of Kuttanad, all reared by the poor people. This is a very important industry in that part of the country and it is affording a decent living to good many families. Those who have watched the Quilon and Kottarakara Railway Stations must have noticed that many baskets full of eggs are being transported from those stations to outside Travancore. That proves that this is a very important industry in the State. That is an industry which is carried on by the poor people and the import duty imposed on eggs by the Ceylon Government will therefore affect the income of many poor families in Travancore. Already the prices of eggs have gone down to a very considerable extent. A duty of Rs. 3 per 100 eggs upon this industry will destroy this industry altogether.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Why was the duty imposed there. Is it for protection of the home industries?

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur cum Pattanapuram*): I think so.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): If so, is it right that we should avoid?

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur cum Pattanapuram*): We have also a right to protect our home industries and therefore we must retaliate. We can cultivate tobacco and increase the duty on Jaffna tobacco. We must protect the copra industry by asking the British Government to impose a heavy duty upon Ceylon copra imported into British India. We have also the same right as the Ceylon Government have.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Is this the remedy that the member suggests against the present tariff policy of Ceylon?

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MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur cum Pattanapuram*): Yes, as at present advised. If you are going to be more serious about it, other remedies may be suggested, but increasing duty on tobacco imported from Ceylon and raising the duty on copra, will be sufficient retaliatory measures in regard to this matter. Now, Sir, the same may be stated in regard to vegetables. I find from the Statistical Volume about Rs. 25,000 worth of vegetables have been exported through the Arukutty chowkey. How much has been exported through the Quilon Railway there is no statistical information available.

Similarly with regard to ginger. With regard to dry ginger, the price per candy, according to the latest quotation, is only Rs. 80, whereas the duty levied by the Ceylon Government is Rs. 55. The house will admit that it is a very heavy duty. I would therefore bring to the notice of the House the absolute necessity of taking serious measures to protect our cottage industries form being killed by the tariff walls built by other countries.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Sir, I am also in agreement with the motion brought forward by Mr. K. Kunjukrishna Pillai. The paralysis on the cocoanut industry of the State continues with unabated vigour; and while it is in full swing we have to face another trouble from Ceylon. No doubt I agree with the previous speakers that we are arguing upon the basis of an imaginary picture supplied by the scanty statistics Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai has been able to gather. I deplore with my friends that we have nothing like reliable statistics to go upon in a matter so important as the present question. I would suggest, Sir, for the attention of the Government that it is time for the Customs Department to be entirely removed from the control of the Excise Commissioner, (Mr. K. Kunjukrishna Pillai: *Hear, hear*) and developed in such a way as the customs revenues of the State deserve. Passing on, Sir, however, to the scrappy information Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai has been able to collect, we find that a growing industry in the State, *viz.*, the export of eggs etc., from the State is practically being throttled by the recent legislation of the Ceylon Government. I fully realise the difficulty that confronts us.

As has been pointed out by Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai himself, the Legislative Council of Ceylon has passed the measure and it was said that the measure has received the sanction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. If such sanction has been issued after consultation in the English Cabinet, there is every chance of the Secretary of State for India being an assenting party to it.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: What concerns the Ceylon Government and its doings with regard to the passing of the measure need not be adverted to. The discussion is allowed only as regards the effect of the measure on the Travancore Government.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Yes, Sir, I see the point. I am only submitting, Sir, that there is considerable trouble ahead so far as we are concerned, but we have got this consolation that

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we do not stand alone in this difficulty. We have got an eminent partner like the Government of India to smart under this measure. That is a great consolation. So, I agree that the matter must be brought to the notice of the Government of India with all the force it deserves, especially the phase that this measure affects a very large section of the Travancore peasants.

It has been suggested as a retaliatory measure that the duty on Jaffna tobacco may be raised by our Government. Whatever be the merits of that idea, there is this fact to be taken into account that it would not directly suffice to relieve the trouble that now menaces our egg industry. For, we want a market for our eggs. That is the first question. If the Ceylon Government are prepared to raise the tariff wall so high as not to let in our eggs there, where is the market for our eggs? By indirect action in the shape of retaliation, I do not know how far we shall be successful in persuading the Ceylon Government to be on terms of friendly relations with us in the matter of our industry. If, as some of the learned gentlemen hope, a retaliatory duty upon Jaffna tobacco, or, for that matter, upon all imports from Ceylon like Colombo umbrella and other things would have the desired effect, well and good. Anyhow, I am suggesting, Sir, that this particular industry in eggs is a growing industry in the State and the latest view on the subject, as may be seen from the Economic Journal, is that in the case of growing industries it is the duty of the State to afford some protection up to a point at which the industry will be in a position to withstand foreign competition. Here is a sort of foreign competition forming the background of this particular measure. Therefore, it is our necessity to devise some sort of protection, be it by direct protection to the eggs themselves or by indirect action upon foreign products. Let not our eggs break on the impact of foreign competition. With these words, I have great pleasure in supporting the motion.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Sir, there is no subject on which we can with an amount of assurance speak even in the absence of statistics relating thereto as in the present case. As one coming from the rural parts and as one representing one of the important centres of this industry, I can speak with authority on this subject and can throw all the statistics that have been given here to the winds and rely entirely on my information and my experience. On matters on which we have statistical information, we can certainly rely thereon. But on matters on which we have no statistical information, it is useless to say that there are no statistics and that therefore we are handicapped. Every member of this House, Sir, knows one thing, that three months back the eggs that each of them must have been taking in the morning must have cost him at least one chackram per egg. During the last one week or a fortnight, Sir, we have been getting eggs at the rate of two for a chackram. This must necessarily enable us

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to pause at least in the morning hours to think of what has happened to these eggs. Something phenomenal must have taken place and it must put both the officers of the Government and the public on to the enquiry as to what its cause is. If you would only bestow five minutes' thought upon this question, you would find that this is all on account of the present ordinance passed by the Ceylon Government. (Mr. E. V. Krishna Pillai: *Legislation.*)

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): What about the consumer?

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Yes, by legislation passed by the Ceylon Government. I am prepared to defend the eggs, Sir. Any questions may be put to me.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): Does not the reduction in price benefit the consumer in Travancore?

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): It might, Sir, tend this way. Those who consume eggs might probably grow fat, but those who produce eggs do so not for the sake of consumption but for sale at a profit. The producer will grow, lean but the consumer will grow fat. The consumer is a person who has got money, while the producer is a person who has not got any money. We are here concerned not with our health, not with vitamins prescribed by doctors for the building up of the physical body but with the vitamins that are necessary for building up the main trade of the peasantry. It is for this purpose, Sir, that this motion has been tabled here for discussion. Those who have been travelling in public conveyances such as trains and buses would have noticed the large number of baskets of eggs that are being transported. Those, Sir, who in their idle moments desire to jostle themselves in the crowds that assemble in our markets and the poor peasantry that come there for the purpose of selling their goods and purchasing the articles necessary for their daily needs would have noticed the mountains of eggs heaped up in the markets at closing time. Where would these eggs go? They are not being consumed by those who are in Travancore. They are not being purchased for the purpose of mere pleasure, but they are being collected for the purpose of selling and selling at a profit. Sir, since the working of the co-operative societies, thanks to the endeavours of the Director of Agriculture, since the very energetic manner in which he has been advocating the cause of poultry and poultry-farming in Travancore, Travancoreans have taken rather strongly to the working of poultry farms on economic basis. In my own village, there is not a single house that cannot boast of at least half a dozen Leghorns or Rhode Islands and I also find, Sir, that it was only last week or a week before that the natural law of forces, as I would put it, came to our rescue. The natural law of forces found that they were not supported by the real forces at the command of the Government, and the eggs were steadily going down in price. The people did not know why it was that these eggs were

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going down in value, and they wanted to find out a natural remedy. They were certainly helped by the Police and the Excise in my own locality. It is a statement which finds a place in some of the newspapers. A rumour was spread that, owing to the rapid increase in the number of fowls in the country, Government had decided to order wholesale butchering of the fowls and if any person were to keep these fowls it was likely to be met with very disastrous consequences and that the Sanitary Department had begun to move in the matter. What happened was that fowls were sold very cheap. A fowl which would fetch one rupee in the open market was being sold for two chackrams and our fowl-eaters, supported as they are by our Police and Excise, made a good use of it. At the time I went there, there were so many fowls that I could not think of. I enquired what it was due to. When I was told the position, I immediately wrote to the *Malayala Rajyam* to put these things in their paper and to call upon the authorities to check them. I had to do a little bit of canvassing. It was the natural instinct of mankind to inflate the price of the articles that originally used to fetch high prices. If the fowls are killed, the number of eggs produced will be small and that will fetch a higher price. That is the way in which the people are trying to increase the price of eggs. It is rather a matter for condemnation —I do not find a better expression —

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: It is perfectly parliamentary.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): —that our Government officers, those who are responsible for the preservation of the prosperity of the people, do net move even their little finger in this matter. Every officer, Sir, must have known that the price of eggs did fall. Every officer must have known that the high price of eggs was due to the large sales which they were having in the markets at Colombo and yet it is complained that the officers did not know anything, that they had no statistics. They must have been aware of these things: and yet they did not do anything.

Another aspect of the question was considered by the public in one of the public meetings. They said that, if this is the way in which Colombo is going to behave towards us, we must as the people of this country take retaliatory measures. I was present at one of the meetings. I said 'no, nothing of that sort shall be done. We have been doing things of our own accord. We said that we did not want so much of liquor, we wanted temperance and Government interfered and said that the people have no right to agitate. We agitated against the selling of foreign cloth. At Alleppey we were assaulted and from Parur to Cape Comorin the whole movement was estinguished in a few hours.' I am pointing out to the House and to the Government the fact that we are not in a position to take retaliatory measures. It was suggested that some one of us must go out and agitate. I said that none of us should take to agitation, that we must rely on the resources of the Government and that we must ask the Government to come to our succour and do all that is possible. We are not in a position to do

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anything of our own accord. If, Sir, by this time we had started agitation from one end of Travancore to another, spending a few rupees out of our pocket, then Government would have become more vigilant, would have communicated with the British Government and the Ceylon Government that the situation here is very serious, that they cannot continue any longer without doing anything and that they should come to rescue them and then a remedy would have come. But we did not do that. We had the utmost confidence in the resources of the Government, helped, as it is, by various officers who have very great influence in British Indian circles and we thought that matters would be attended to in proper time and that the Government would do the right thing at the right time. It is fortunate, Sir, that this session came to our aid. Had it not been for this, Sir, it would have been only a cry in the wilderness. I would desire, Sir, that Government would accept this motion with all the seriousness that it demands and take prompt measures for the purpose of remedying the evil which has already threatened us.

What Government might do, Sir, in regard to the development of trade and industries in the State—though that may not be particularly relevant in this connection but it is one which can be said to be of the most paramount importance—is to see that the preservation and prosperity of the industries in the State is a matter that ought to have paramount consideration in the Governmental activities. A Trade Agent has no doubt been appointed in Bombay, but, he is a gentleman who does not know much about the local conditions, about the local industries that require protection and nourishment. I would suggest that at the very earliest possible opportunity, Government must send out one of our own men for training who with his knowledge of local conditions will have the prosperity of the country at heart and do the needful. With these words, I support the motion.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): Sir, I have great pleasure in supporting the motion now, under discussion in this House. Sir, the question of the imposition of protective duty on some of the goods by the Ceylon Government raises issues of the most far-reaching consequence, which would affect not only the finance of our Government but also the welfare of our teeming millions in the State. Sir, as an after-meath of the great war and also as a result of the economic blizzard, economic nationalism and a policy of protection have been resorted to by all the Governments in the world. Members of this House know that the American Republic, I mean, the United States of America, have adopted the various National Recovery Acts. We know that it was this spirit of nationalism in economics and finance that led to the formation of the Coalition Government known as the National Government in England. Then again, Sir, it is the same spirit of nationalism in economic and financial matters that brought

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about the advent of the great statesman Hitler in Germany; then again, Sir, it is the same policy of economic nationalism that is guiding another equally great statesman in Europe, I mean, Mussolini.

MR.R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad II*): I raise a point of order. What has this discussion to do with the question under consideration?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Political work of Mussolini is not relevant, but what he did for the economic salvation are relevant. So I allow him.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): I will try to show how the two things are connected.

Now, Sir, when we look at this, what we have to seriously consider is what is the position of Travancore. Have we got any independence in matters like this? Well, Sir, we should not forget the baneful effect of that agreement which was entered into by our Government with the British Indian Government so early as 1865, I mean the Interportal Convention.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Agreements between the Travancore Government and the Government of British India may not be discussed in any strong language or observations made with regard to their soundness.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): Sir, I am not discussing the terms of the agreement; I am only referring to the effects on our finances of agreements that have been entered into between the two Governments.

Well, Sir, with regard to our industry, our finance and our other material resources, this agreement has been described correctly, I believe, as an incubus and we have been crying hoarse in this House on various occasions for the speedy revision of the terms of the convention for the economic regeneration of our State.

Well, Sir, there is a short press note in the Hindu dated July 28th. It is a very short note. It is this that has led to this serious consequence so far as we in Travancore are concerned. I am reading from the Hindu dated the 28th July 1934.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT; You may mention the points.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): Yes, Sir.

"From midnight last night, the new protective tariff, affecting eggs, vegetables, animal and vegetable ghee, ginger, fish-oil, edible oil (except cod liver oil) and betel leaves came into force, having been sanctioned by the Governor and Secretary of State for Colombo. It is anticipated that India will be the country most affected by the new scale of duties."

It will be recalled that questions were asked earlier this week in the Indian Legislative Assembly in this connection.

The following schedule gives the articles and the revised duties on them :—Eggs per 100 Rupees 3, vegetables fresh or dried, Rupees 3

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per cwt., preferential duty Rupees 2, animal ghee Rs. 17 per cwt., vegetable ghee Rs. 10 per cwt., ginger, raw or dried, except preserved Rs. 5 per cwt, edible fish-oil, except cod liver oil and medical preparations therefrom, Rs. 20 per cwt., and betel leaves 25 per cent. *ad valorem*."

This is the schedule, Sir; a glance over this schedule will show that all the articles which have been sought to be shut out from this colony by this protective duty are products of Travancore mainly and only secondarily a product of other portions of India. Well, Sir, take the first article, *viz.* eggs. I am coming from a constituency which can be described as the home of eggs and poultry farming and all the Honourable members of this House might have heard of the poultry farm at Marthandom that is conducted by the Y. M. C. A. there. This business is giving food to millions of poor families in the villages all-around. Similarly, Sir, taking another article *viz.* betel leaves, I know for instance, from my constituency alone betel leaves worth thousands of rupees are being sent to other countries especially to Ceylon. Then again a very vigorous trade is being conducted in fish and fish oil between the fishing villages of my constituency and Colombo. There are agents in many places in my constituency who are trade agents of big firms in Colombo. Similarly, Sir, ginger is also a product of Travancore mainly. The imposition of this duty will effect the producer to a very great extent. These are hard times. It may be that though you will be complaining, our voice is not strong enough or it has been feeble and it does not reach the heights of Simla.

Sir, it was Dewan Raja Kesava Das, an illustrious son of my constituency (*Laughter*) who was impelled by patriotic instinct to improve the commerce and trade of Travancore. It was he who laid the foundations of modern Alleppey and I know he even constructed a few ships for Travancore to carry on foreign trade. Well, Sir, these are times when we should have a statesman with the same patrotic impulse as Raja Kesava Das. Oh ! for a Raja Kesava Das :

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : Sir I support the motion. We are hopelessly reduced to a helpless condition in our trade and industry by the tariff wall that has been newly erected by the Ceylon Government against the interest of our Government and of our people. Sir, I do not find suitable words to express my condemnation against the action taken by Ceylon Government in this connection. We have been kind to them, we have been friendly to them, we have been brotherly to them in our dealings with them, and we permitted their cocoanuts to be imported into our State and the oil crushed out of their cocoanuts to be exported duty free.

We have been showing all these concessions to them ; but the Ceylon Government in their turn have ignored all these and instead of gratitude towards us, we have been repaid by ingratitude in their

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conduct by imposing the tariff duty against our interest. This is a worst form of ingratitude on the part of the Ceylon Government, Sir, for the help that we have rendered to them.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Are there eggs in Nedumangad?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): I am coming to that, Sir. I am, Sir, coming from a constituency known as the home of the poor not only in Travancore but in the whole of South India

At the very outset, Sir, I said we are helpless. Had we the power in us, I know what we could do. Surely we could have retaliated the action of Ceylon Government, but unfortunately we are left hopelessly helpless today. But, fortunately, for us, we have got, Sir, two of the greatest statesmen in India today to save us from our difficulties. Sir, we have got the services of Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar as well as our Dewan Sir Habibullah. So, what I request our Government to do is to approach the British Government through these two statesmen and get our grievances redressed as early as possible.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): Sir, I rise to support the adjournment motion brought forward by my friend Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai. For the last over thirty years, Sir, the Ceylon Government was following a free trade policy in her commercial relationship with other nations. But only recently she has changed her policy and she is trying to follow the foot-steps of other countries which are trying to protect themselves economically by the creation of new tariff walls.

The recent decision of the Ceylonese Government to put protective tariff duties on vegetables, eggs, and animal and vegetable ghee, ginger edible fish oil and betel-nut are really affecting the southern portion of India. We are not affected very much by protective duties put upon the other articles except eggs. From the statistics I find that we have exported vegetables from Travancore for about a lakh of rupees to countries outside Travancore.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Does any portion of our ginger go to Ceylon?

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): Statistics do not supply or show the final destination of our exports.

RAO SAHIB S PARAMESVARA AIYER (*Nominated*): I am asking whether the member has any experience with regard to that.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): I am not quite sure.

With regard to edible fish, we export to countries outside Travancore to the value of Rs. 91,000 and about betel-nut about which my friend Mr. Narayana Pillai exaggerated very much, we have exported last year only to the value of Rs. 1,300.

Under provisions the eggs must have been included. But, according to me, the value of eggs exported during the last five months comes to over a lakh of rupees. My experience shows that figures collected by private institutions can be more relied upon than the statistics published

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by Government. I do not think there is any reason to disbelieve the figures supplied by Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai. I cannot understand the manner in which they are collected by Government. I should like to say that it is one of the most important things which would enable us to understand where we stand in our economic activities. Sir, as the mover said, we are affected very much with regard to eggs, but looking into the future danger by this policy of Ceylon, I think the difficulty to which we are now placed is very small. We were exporting last year areacanuts to the value of Rs. 14 lakhs to outside Travancore the major portion of which, according to the Trade Commissioner of Ceylon, goes to Ceylon. Last year we exported fish worth to the extent of Rs. 15 lakhs. A major portion of that also went to Ceylon. The protective duty now Ceylon imposes relates to the very primary articles which are used every day by the people there. These two articles, fish and arecnuts, are articles which are of very great use to the people of Ceylon. So, if Ceylon touches these two articles of our export, I must say that it will affect us very much.

DEPUTY PRESIDET: I am unable to hear the member.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): Sir, what I was telling was that last year we were exporting arecanuts to the value of Rs. 14 lakhs the major portion of which was used in Ceylon and fish to the value of Rs. 15 lakhs, a major portion of which also went to Ceylon.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know from the member the total value of exports from Travancore to Ceylon?

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): I know it is about Rs. 2 lakhs.

What I was saying is that these statistics are not full. The total import to Ceylon from Travancore for the last year is Rs. 2 lakhs while the export is Rs. 12 lakhs. That is why I said that these figures are not at all reliable. What I say is that the Government should take care that the Government of Ceylon does not impose import duty on these two articles, fish and arecanut. I am afraid, these two articles are daily used by the people of Ceylon. This is the only point that I have to place before the House.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Sir, we have been listening to a good number of speeches on the motion of Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai. On the merits of the motion, I may say, that the Government are at one with the people (*Cries of 'can't hear'.*)

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The member, I think is speaking loud. I want that other members will make it possible to hear him.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): On the merits of the question I may inform the House that the Government are perfectly at one with the non-official side. Ceylon has levied new protective tariffs on certain articles.

Excepting eggs, none of those articles are known to be exported in any considerable quantities from Travancore to Ceylon. From a financial point of view, it cannot therefore be said that the new tariffs would seriously affect Travancore. But the spirit underlying the new

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tariffs does certainly demand our earnest attention. The new duties are levied on articles imported into Ceylon almost wholly from India That shows that when her own interests are involved, Ceylon would not be swayed much by considerations for the feelings of India, which like Ceylon is an integral part of the British Empire. Of late, Indaia has become the dumping ground for cocoanut products from Ceylon, which has driven the cocoanut cultivator in India almost to the verge of ruin. The present is therefore a suitable opportunity for pressing on the attention of the Government of India the urgent necessity and importance of protecting the cocoanut industry in India by raising the import duty on cocoanut products from Ceylon. This aspect of the question has already been brought to the notice of the Government of India. In a recent meeting of the Legislative Assembly, the attention of the Government was drawn to the proposal to levy these new duties. Sir Joseph Bhore, replying on behalf of Government said, that he had no information other than what was published in the papers and that he would enquire into the matter.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*): By whom was it brought to the notice of the Government of India ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : By one of the members.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trinandrum—Rural*) : Is it a non-official member ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : Yes. It was Mr. Vidyasagar Pandya.

All that Travancore can do in the matter is to draw the attention of the Government of India to the situation and the Government will certainly take appropriate action.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*) : Has the Government of Travancore made any representation to the Government of India ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : The Government are awaiting the decision of this House to take action.

MR A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*) : Have we got any official information about the action ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : We have got only newspaper reports.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : The member makes the statement based on newspapers ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : Yes, on the report contained in the "Hindu."

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : What is contained in a newspaper ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : Yes, Sir.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur cum Pattanapuram*) : May I know the extent of our trade in eggs with Ceylon ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) . Sir, some remarks were made by some of the speakers about the collection of statistics by this

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Government. I may inform the House that our trade with Ceylon is not all directly with that country. The bulk of the trade passes through British India and Tinnevelly. It has therefore not been possible for the department to get accurate information as to the—

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur* cum *Pattanapuram*) : Is there anything in the Government publication to show that any eggs have been exported from Travancore to outside ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : Eggs are included under "provisions" in the statistical volumes. I may also inform the House that regarding non-dutiables we are in possession of accurate statistics only from the commencement of 1108. It is not possible to get full and correct information regarding non dutiables prior to the year 1108. Now that the importance of correct trade statistics has been recognised, arrangements have been made for the collection of full and detailed information regarding non-dutiables.

MR. K. KUNJUKKISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : Is there any agency to know the accurate information ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : Yes, as to the place of origin, destination, and value, the officers in charge of the chowkeys used to take the information given by the exporters or importers as the case may be. But there was no possibility of getting correct information. All that could be done was to take what was given by the merchants. From 1108, we have been taking steps to collect accurate information.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur* cum *Pattanapuram*) : May I know what steps are taken to get correct statistics ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : Chowkey officers have been instructed to get full and correct information regarding non-dutibles. Registers for non-dutaibles have been newly opened with additional and appropriate columns ; and additional staff for statistical work has been sanctioned in all important chowkeys. I may also inform the House that action is being taken to get more accurate and fuller information on these points from the commencement of the next year.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Which all items come under the head of provisions ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : All minor articles of food are grouped under the head of provisions.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Can the member give some idea ? Is *Chala* included ?

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : *Chala* has been mentioned by Mr. Asan. Has that been included under provisions ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : If Mr. Asan wants an answer let him put the question. I do not know why Mr. Krishna Pillai should interfere.

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MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): Are these figures correct?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The figures are correct.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): May I know whether Government will request the Legal and Constitutional Adviser to His Highness the Maha Raja to approach the Government of India and to do the needful in the matter?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The rules do not provide for asking such questions. Members are at liberty to ask whether the Government is prepared to do anything in the matter.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): May I know whether the member will kindly enquire whether the Government are prepared to do anything in the matter?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes, the Government will do whatever they can in the matter.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*): Has this Government power to do anything independently of the British Government in this matter?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: It is a question of constitutional law which the member may not be able to answer. He is in charge of the Excise Department.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) Sir, two remedies have been suggested by members. One is the raising of duty on Jaffna tobacco and the other is raising the import duty on cocoanut products. So far as the latter is concerned we are not in a position.....

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Can we not levy an excise duty on imported copra from Ceylon?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): There is the question of imposing duty on cocoanut. We are not free to raise it. But we are free to raise duty on tobacco.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Does it not require the sanction of the Government of India?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): No, it does not require. We have been doing it from time to time; even in 1107 we raised it to Rs. 135.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the member whether he would raise the duty on tobacco further now?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I cannot give any undertaking now. Jaffna tobacco is an article largely consumed here. We have to take into consideration both sides of the question. Many of our people cannot perhaps get on without Jaffna tobacco. How far the consumers would feel the raising of duty is a matter for serious consideration.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I ask the member whether tobacco is not a luxury and as such why he is not willing to raise the duty on it?

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MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : May I know what the attitude of the Government will be in case a movement is started to boycott Jaffna tobacco?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : That question need not be answered.

MR. M SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : May I know what our Government can do in the matter except raising a loud cry?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : That question also need not be answered because the very fact that the adjournment has been allowed shows that our Government can do something.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade II*): കൊച്ചി രാജ്യത്തു ജാഫ്നാ പുകയിലയ്ക്കു ഇപ്പോഴുള്ള തീരുവ എന്താണ്?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*). കണ്ടിക്കു ൻ o • രൂപയാണ്.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade II*). കൊച്ചീരാജ്യത്തു ജാഫ്നാ പുകയില ഉപയോഗിച്ചുവരുന്നവർ ഇപ്പോൾ അതു ഇല്ലാഞ്ഞിട്ടും ജീവിക്കുന്നില്ലേ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : ജാഫ്നാ പുകയിലയില്ലാത്തവർക്കു ജീവിക്കാൻപാടില്ലാ എന്നു ഞാൻപറഞ്ഞില്ല. ഈ നാട്ടിൽ ജാഫ്നാ പുകയിലഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നവർക്കു അതിന്റെ തീരുവകൂട്ടിയാൽ അവരെ വളരെ അധികം വിഷമിപ്പിക്കുമെന്നുംകൂടി ആലോചിക്കണമെന്നേ ഞാൻ പറയുന്നൊള്ളൂ. അല്ലാതെ ജാഫ്നാ പുകയിലക്കു തീരുവകൂട്ടരുതു് എന്നു ഞാൻ പറയുന്നില്ല.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : May I know from the member what action the Government is going to take in the matter?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : I cannot say that. Government have made up their mind already in the matter. They will consider the question in all earnestness. That is all I can say.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : May I know from the member whether we can have any fresh markets for our eggs?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : It may be possible to find fresh markets for our eggs, within India outside Travancore.

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Sir, I may say on behalf of Government that I have listened with very great interest to the discussion on this motion for the adjournment of the House. Government realise the feelings of the non-official members of the House and they are glad that the House got an opportunity to express its opinion on this very vital question. Government have not yet received any official communication from the Government of India, or from the Ceylon Government through the Government of India, on the imposition of protective duties on eggs and other products in Ceylon. It is seen from the newspapers that the duties have come into force from the 27th of July.

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MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur cum Pattanapuram*): May I know if it is the duty of the Ceylon Government to inform the Travancore Government of the duty?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No: but we may get official communications from the Government of India on such subjects.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): May I know whether this Government subscribe for the Ceylon Gazette?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I believe so.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Has this duty appeared there?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It has not, so far as I am aware.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Is not the source of information a comparatively small matter in such big questions?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, I only say that the Government have seen the news published in the newspapers and they take it that it is a fact. A great deal has been said about correct statistics not being available here. Government also deplore the state of affairs and hope to take early steps to set matters right.

From the figures given by the mover of the motion and by the Excise Commissioner, we see that our trade with Ceylon in eggs is, compared with other articles, small. But I know that the poultry farming is a thriving cottage industry in Travancore; and any action which will discourage that industry should certainly be protested against. Further, we must also avail ourselves of this opportunity to raise our protest once again against the concession granted for the import of Ceylon cocoanut products into India. Government have already protested to the Government of India against this concession and they can avail themselves of this opportunity to renew their protest. On behalf of Government, all that I wish to assure the House is that they will take the earliest opportunity to bring the facts to the notice of the Government of India and enter their emphatic protest against the present action of the Ceylon Government pointing out how it is going to affect the poor agriculturists of Travancore. In order to strengthen their position, Government will forward to the Government of India a copy of today's proceedings of this House on the very interesting discussion that has now taken place.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*): May I know whether they will also communicate the suggestion about our resorting to retaliatory measures?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Procedings of the whole discussion will be sent to the Government of India. As the Excise Commissioner has pointed out, this question is already engaging the attention of the Government of India as well as of the non-official members of the Legislative Assembly. An Honourable member of that Assembly raised this question and the Honourable

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Member for Commerce replied that the matter was being enquired into, so that, when we make our representation to the Government of India, it will only strengthen their hands in regard to the action they propose to take. I am sure that the Government of India will take up the matter with the Ceylon Government and see that some redress is obtained. This is a vital question affecting the poor peasantry not only of Travancore but of the whole of India, and we may therefore hope to secure some redress through the intervention of the Government of India.

I may assure the House that this Government will do everything in their power and make a strong representation to the Government of India, forwarding a copy of the proceedings of this House.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : Sir, I am very happy to find that the Government realise the seriousness of the situation ; and I do hope that they will put all their energies to solve this very vexed question. I do not wish to add anything more.

I move that the House do now adjourn, under Rule 23 (1). (*Vide* para 50 page 22 of the Manual.)

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : Government are neutral, Sir.

The motion was put to vote and carried unanimously by the non-official members.

The Assembly adjourned at 5-25 P. M.

K. MADHAVA KURUP,
Secretary to the Sri Mulam Assembly.

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